THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 21st March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" There are 23 questions to be answered to-day. I want to finish them before the scheduled question-time is over. I may also inform the House that the questions relating to the Education Department, namely, questions Nos. 106 and 113, will be taken up on the 25th instant. Now, we shall take up the question left over from the Agenda of yesterday."

Correspondence with the Central Government regarding the Andhra State.

* 88 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India were in correspondence with the Government of Madras on the Andhra State issue one week prior to the death of Sri Potti Sreeramulu and prior to the announcement of Sri Jawaharlal Nehru in the Parliament on 19th December 1952 to form the Andhra State?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" Sir, will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state why he did not make a reference to this correspondence prior to the death of Sri Potti Sriramulu, which could have given an opportunity to the Andhras to persuade Sri Potti Sriramulu to give up his fast? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am not sure whether I have understood the question yet. But, there was every opportunity for the Andhra leaders to persuade Sri Potti Sriramulu to give up his fast. I did not prevent it and I would not have done anything to that end. It was open to them to persuade him to give up his fast. Hon. Members will remember that I made a comprehensive statement in the other House on the 9th December and on the basis of that statement, there was every opportunity for hon. Members to act as suggested just now. I stated fully and referred to the correspondence also, on the 9th December 1952."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Did not the good cause of the fast of the late Sri Sriramulu include his bad, stubborn wish to deprive Madras City from its rightful owners, Sir? "

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MR. SPEAKER :—" It does not arise out of the main question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Would I be correct if I assume that there were some leaders who were interested in dragging on this fast for their own political purposes? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" It has nothing to do with the main question."

SRI M. VEERABHADRAM :—" కరస్పాండెన్సుద్వారాగాని, లేక మరొక విధంగాగాని, ముఖ్యమంత్రిగాని లేక మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వంగాని ఆంధ్ర capital గురించి ఏమైనా suggest చేసారా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No, Sir. At that time, there was no question of the capital. It was about the formation of the State, and the statement of the Prime Minister as well as of mine earlier than the death referred to were clear on that point. We had not discussed any question about the capital."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Was it on the initiative of this Government or that of the Government of India that the correspondence took place? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the Prime Minister of India and myself are old colleagues and we have plenty of correspondence between us; there is no question of initiative. We have worked together for long on many issues including this issue. I cannot exactly now place the correspondence before the House because it is private and personal correspondence. It was mentioned by the Prime Minister in Parliament. There is no question of initiative or competition between the Prime Minister and me in the matter."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" ఆంధ్రరాష్ట్ర విభజన గురించి correspondence జరిగే సమయములో ముఖ్యమంత్రిగారి అభిప్రాయము అనుకూలంగానో లేక వ్యతిరేకంగానో ఉండిఉండవచ్చు. కాని ఇప్పుడు వారు ఆ అభిప్రాయాన్ని మార్చుకున్నామన్నందుకు సంతోషమే. అయితే అలా మార్చుకొనే ముందు యీ విభజన విషయములో వారి అభిప్రాయం ఏవిధంగా వుందో చెప్పగలరా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I invite Sri Venkateswarlu to come to me and I shall discuss this matter with him very fully."

MR. SPEAKER :—' The matter has been discussed sufficiently. So, I shall pass on to the next question."